



Dear RPEA Members:

You recently received an email message from President Sharon Hoffbeck resigning her office effective August 1. Most Board members also first learned of Ms. Hoffbeck's resignation in that same email.

The Executive Board wishes to acknowledge and thank Ms. Hoffbeck for her service to RPEA, both as the Medical Information Committee Director and as President for the last five years. We have, however, accepted her resignation effective immediately.

We regret, given her long involvement with the RPEA, that Ms. Hoffbeck chose to resign so abruptly and communicate her resignation in a manner that caused confusion and division among members and undermined the effectiveness of the organization.

Ms. Hoffbeck's statements regarding other Board members and her choice to resign are, simply put, a result of her inability to accept the right and responsibility of other elected Board members to hold and express opinions different from her own and to do their jobs on behalf of retirees. RPEA is a member organization run by an elected Board. Members elect officers with varying backgrounds and areas of expertise in order to ensure RPEA is governed openly, honestly, and effectively. It is governed by majority rule.

RPEA's effectiveness is neither the result of nor dependent on any single individual. The Board should, and must, welcome discussion of differing perspectives in order to make good decisions in the interests of members. There are processes that President Hoffbeck could and should have used, as she has before, if she had a legitimate complaint about the conduct of any Board member. She did not do so. Expressing an opinion different from the President is not misconduct.

Indeed, as an RPEA member, you know that the RPEA, through its Executive Board and the work of its invaluable regional chapters, has a fine history of

- * advocating for and supporting programs that will advance the interests of retired public employees;
- * staying informed of current issues that may impact retiree pensions and medical benefits and keeping members informed of those issues and the need to take action, as necessary; and
- * maintaining regular communication with both the RPEA membership and those agencies and boards whose areas of statutory responsibilities may impact public retirees.

We want to be clear, this has not and will not change: the RPEA Executive Board is dedicated to the defense of retiree pension and medical benefits.

The Board is on constant alert and prepared to respond to efforts by either the legislative or executive branch to alter your benefits. The RPEA is fortunate that it is greatly supported in these efforts by the work of the APEA/AFT and their legislative arm, EPIC.

We want you to know that you will be hearing from the Board as we move forward. Our

goal is to bring greater transparency to the activities undertaken by the RPEA on behalf of all members and to provide greater opportunities for members to be involved in the organization. We have much work to do, and we intend to focus fully on that work.

We did not expect this sudden change in RPEA leadership, but we pledge to do the work necessary to forge a successful transition. We ask for your patience and support while the Board continues its work on your behalf.

Thank you for continuing to support RPEA, and for your past service as a public employee.

RPEA Executive Board
July 27, 2021

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